

March 26, 1973

(Start of Belt #13)

I address Senator Syas, please.

SENATOR SYAS: Yes.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Senator Syas, it is partly my fault for not having this published and yet I thought it was published in the Journal. But it says, Any leaseholder or any other interested party may request, so it includes everyone.

SENATOR SYAS: Why do we need it? You can do it without putting it in legislation. Why do we need stuff like that in there. Anybody can go to the Board of Educational Lands and Funds anytime and talk to them about these leases. I've even done it for myself, running down some leases of friends of mine to find out just various information at their request. Why do we need to put that in there that you can go...you can already go. Anybody can go. Why do you want that in the statutes?

SPEAKER: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Well, I renew my motion to adopt the amendment. It's true exactly as Senator Syas explains it. They presently have this right to go to the Board, but this spells it out so that no one is in any doubt. Many people don't understand that they have this right to go and request a hearing, so I think that it should be a part of the...and I have an obligation here because I agreed with these people that we would make it as an amendment.

SPEAKER: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the body, a question of Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Yes.

SENATOR KELLY: Senator Lewis, it would appear to me that this amendment is an attempt to get a dialogue between citizens and the Board of School Lands.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Kelly, you are exactly right.

SENATOR KELLY: Now, is there any way possible that we can make this a little stronger so that the citizen input to that Board in areas where they are interested in acquiring land and getting it on the tax roles, is there any way we can make your amendment stronger that will give a better dialogue.

SENATOR LEWIS: We could make it mandatory which would have certain limitations because if you have a recession of any type, they can request that this be sold at a depressed price just as well as it can be sold now at a higher price. I think there is a certain danger in making it mandatory.

SENATOR KELLY: The word that comes to me is that the Board of School Lands are just arbitrary in saying, no, they are not going to sell, and I'd like to see some way. If this will help, then let's go this route. If we can make it stronger where we can get citizen input into that Board as a request. That land belongs to everybody, and the quicker, in my opinion, the quicker we can get it out of the state and into private hands the better off we are. But recognizing that there are those that don't want to do this, can we beef up this amendment any way?

SENATOR LEWIS: This land is a trust held for the children of the state of Nebraska and this is a provision to establish,